



# las vegas citizen corps

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Program: Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council

Department: City of Las Vegas Office of Emergency Management  
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## Strategic Planning

### Executive Summary:

In an effort to manage an increasing number of volunteer programs related to emergency preparedness, community safety and homeland security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is encouraging the development of Citizen Corps Councils in local jurisdictions throughout the country. Such Councils are responsible to develop a strategic plan to coordinate the various programs operated by allied agencies in order to maximize efficiency and service to the community.

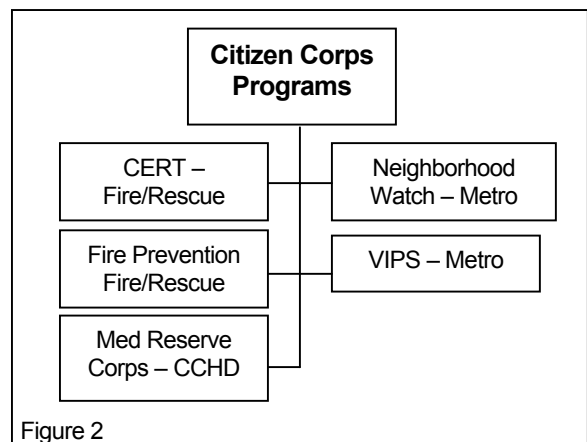
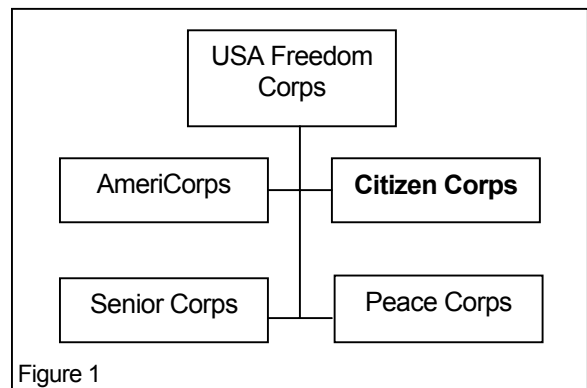
In response to this calling, the City of Las Vegas, through it's Management Committee for Emergency Operations, has established the Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council composed of representatives from various city departments, allied public, private and volunteer agencies, and citizen representatives, and to collaborate regionally with neighboring jurisdictions that may establish similar Councils and Corps-related programs.

### Background:

During his 2002 State of the Union address, President Bush announced the formation of the USA Freedom Corps to foster volunteerism in America. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been charged with the responsibility to administer the Citizen Corps program, a component of USA Freedom Corps (figure 1). One of FEMA's main goals is to encourage the development of Citizen Corps Councils in local jurisdictions through the country to ensure local government is engaging it's citizenry and the various allied agencies that operate emergency preparedness programs. FEMA's program guide for local officials recommends that Citizen Corps Councils be established in local jurisdiction service areas in order to address the unique needs of community substructures.

To date, FEMA has identified four (4) resident programs and one affiliate program within the Citizen Corp campaign including

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Neighborhood Watch Programs, Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), Medical Reserve Corps, and fire safety and prevention programs. All of these programs are existing or

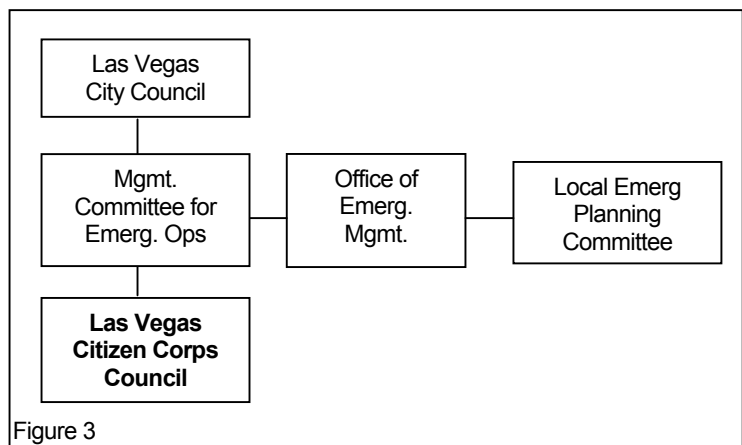


under development in the Las Vegas community by city departments and/or allied agencies (figure 2).

### **Organizational Structure and Regional Collaboration**

The Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council is established in accordance with City of Las Vegas Municipal Code Title-2, Chapter 2.30 et seq. It operates as a subcommittee of the city's Management Committee for Emergency Operations, which reports to the City Manager and City Council.

Regional collaboration and coordination with other agencies and neighboring local jurisdictions that operate Citizen Corps Councils and/or corps-related programs is conducted through the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) facilitated by the City of Las Vegas Office of Emergency Management (figure 3).



The Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council, in collaboration with the LEPC, will coordinate and participate in reporting activities statewide through the State of Nevada Citizen Corps Council facilitated by the Nevada Division of Emergency Management (NDEM).

### **Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council Participants and Affiliates (Table-1):**

The following table depicts the current participants and respective responsibilities on the Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council:

Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council Participants and Affiliates (Table 1)	
Organization	Responsibility
City of Las Vegas Mayor and City Council	Program endorsement and elected official involvement
City of Las Vegas Office of Emergency Management	Administrative support, scheduling and coordination
Las Vegas Fire & Rescue	Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
Las Vegas Fire & Rescue	Community Fire Prevention Programs
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department	Neighborhood Watch
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department	Volunteers in Police Service (Metro Volunteer Program)
Clark County Health District	Medical Reserve Program
American Red Cross	Volunteer coordination & recruiting (trained staff)
Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada	Volunteer coordination & recruiting (untrained staff)
City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services	Neighborhood association contact and coordination
Salvation Army	Volunteer recruiting and program participation
Neighborhood Associations and Groups	Volunteer recruiting and program participation
Targeted Future Organizational Expansion	
Nevada Commission for National & Community Service	Grant funding and volunteer recruitment
Faith-based organizations	Volunteer recruiting and participation
Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)	To be determined, pending local organization restructure

### **Risk and Resource Assessment Methodology**

The City of Las Vegas Office of Emergency Management will facilitate the conduct of risk and resource assessment to support the needs of Las Vegas Citizen Corps programs. Much of these analyses may be consolidated with other emergency management projects already in progress. Program volunteers will be utilized to help identify high-risk areas of the community by comparing the emergency response data of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. This community risk assessment data will then be plotted by the city's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff to comprehensively illustrate the location of high-risk(s) within the service area(s) due to socio-economics, special-needs populations and any other determining factors.

Existing resource analysis will be shared between participating agencies and logged into a shared database application. The resource data will then be compared against the forecasted community risk(s) to help determine future Citizen Corps training program objectives.

### **Public Education and Training Opportunities Including Special Needs Populations:**

Participating organizations will collaboratively assemble a master events training calendar for the grant performance period. The Las Vegas Office of Emergency Management will facilitate publication of the training calendar and public education efforts about the Citizen Corps programs through the city's website and government access cable television station, as well as publication in the city's quarterly newsletter distributed to all city residents. The Office of Emergency Management will coordinate this information with neighboring jurisdictions through the LEPC.

Volunteers of the Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council will be utilized to identify the specific training needs and opportunities with special needs populations. This information will be incorporated into the master events training calendar and published through various means including the city's newsletter and broadcasted on the city's cable television channel.

### **Public Education, Outreach Campaigns and Implementing Citizen Corps Programs:**

The Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council will collaborate with all participating organizations, including the American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, to conduct public outreach and educational campaigns about the Citizen Corps Initiative and related programs.

The City of Las Vegas operates its own government access cable television station, KCLV Channel-2 (figure 4), to publicize various government activities and services. This existing resource infrastructure will be utilized to disseminate public information about Citizen Corps programs, recruitment drives and training opportunities.



Figure 4

The City of Las Vegas also publishes a quarterly newsletter entitled "*City Talk*" that is distributed to all residents and businesses in the City of Las Vegas. Information about Citizen Corps programs, recruitment drives and training opportunities will also be disseminated through this medium. A modest printing and postage budget has been included in this budget request to accomplish the advertisement and community outreach elements of this strategic plan.

Information about Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council meetings and related-program activities will also be posted to the City of Las Vegas website: [http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us/fire-rescue/4536\\_4666.htm](http://www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us/fire-rescue/4536_4666.htm)

### **Tracking System – Program Activities and Participants:**

Program activities will be tracked individually by each host organization and the data will be compiled into a master database maintained by the City of Las Vegas Office of Emergency Management. Las Vegas OEM will facilitate reporting of such data regionally and statewide.

Volunteer participants will be tracked in partnership with the American Red Cross, Volunteer Center of Southern Nevada, Clark County Health District and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Program development contemplates a shared database between participation Corps Council organizations., subject to all applicable privacy rights and laws.

### **Statewide Planning/Reporting and National Benchmarking:**

This strategic plan includes a goal to participate in the State of Nevada's required statewide Citizen Corps Council. Staff and volunteer members of the Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council will be selected to participate in statewide meetings in Carson City or remotely in Las Vegas via telecast technology. Volunteers will be utilized to record and collate Council and related program activities to comply with statewide reporting requirements.

Staff and volunteer members of the Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council will also be assigned to visit other communities in the nation that have demonstrated successful Corps programs in order benchmark from proven strategies, as well as reciprocate with information about local successes.

### **Identification of Funding Opportunities:**

In an effort to minimize program expenses derived from local budgets, the Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council will endeavor to seek a variety of funding mechanisms to support Corps programs, including federal, state and private grants, as well as monetary and in-kind donations to the extent practicable and in accordance with applicable laws.

### **Strategic Plan Revisions**

The Las Vegas Citizen Corps Council will endeavor to continually revise this strategic plan to reflect the most current Citizen Corps programs, affiliates and volunteer opportunities. As with all contemporary planning processes, this strategic plan is considered a dynamic document. All interested organizations and individuals are encouraged to contribute to it's enhancements through participation in the Las Vegas Citizens Corps Council and related programs.